



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Confirmation No.: 9375

Groeneveld *et al.*

Group Art Unit: 2881

Appln. No.: 09/758,172

Examiner: SOUW, BERNARD

Filed: January 12, 2001

Title: Abbe Arm Calibration System for Use in Lithographic Apparatus

February 23, 2004

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**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22323-1450

Sir:

While the Applicants gratefully acknowledged the Notice of Allowance for the present application, Applicants wish to comment on the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance to clarify certain points.

In the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner indicated that the reason for allowance is the recitation of "lateral displacement of a reference point in a plane of an object table is measured as a function of tilt," (emphasis omitted). The Examiner indicated that the present application is allowed based on a fully different ground from those submitted by Applicants in the papers filed September 3, 2003, as the Examiner remains in disagreement with Applicants arguments.

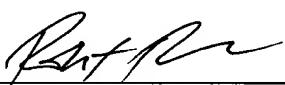
Applicants reiterate that the present application is allowable for at least the arguments set forth in the amendments and in particular for at least the arguments set forth in the response filed September 3, 2003. In addition, Applicants agree that the present application is further patentable for the reasons stated by the Examiner.

In the Notice of allowability, the Examiner stated Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application (EP 00300246.6) as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and the

original filed priority document was not an original certified copy, it was a copy of the certified original.

Applicants have filed the certified copy of the foreign application EP 00300246.6 from which priority is claimed on November 24, 2003, as well as on January 12, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,  
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